

App. No. 09/576,706
Amendment mailed August 25, 2003
Re: Office Action mailed May 23, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1-20. (canceled without prejudice)

21. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a cellulosic/polymer product, said method consisting essentially of:

mixing together a composite consisting essentially of:

(a) at least one cellulosic filler in an amount of about 30% to about 70% by weight of said composite; and

(b) at least one polypropylene material in an amount of about 30% to about 70% by weight of said composite, said at least one polypropylene material comprised of at least one lubricant in an amount of about 10 to about 20 parts per 100 parts of a polypropylene resin;

transferring said composite ~~directly to an extruder such that a pelletizing step is eliminated~~; and

extruding said composite through a die to form a final shap siding panel.

22. (previously added) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one cellulosic filler is in an amount of about 40% to about 50% by weight of said composite.

23. (previously added) The method of 21 wherein said at least one cellulosic filler is wood flour.

24. (previously added) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one polypropylene material is in an amount of about 50% to about 60% by weight of said composite.

25. (previously added) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one lubricant is in an amount of about 14 to about 19 parts per 100 parts of said polypropylene resin.

26. (previously added) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one polypropylene material is further comprised of at least one inorganic filler in an amount up to about 70 parts per 100 parts of said polypropylene resin.

27. (previously added) The method of claim 26 wherein said at least one inorganic filler is in an amount of about 20 to about 60 parts per 100 parts of said polypropylene.

28. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a cellulosic/polymer product, said method consisting essentially of:

mixing together a composite consisting essentially of:

- (a) at least one cellulosic filler in an amount of about 30% to about 60% by weight of said composite; and
- (b) at least one polyvinyl chloride material in an amount of about 40% to about 70% by weight of said composite, said at least one polyvinyl chloride material comprised of at least one stabilizer in an

amount of about 1 to about 10 parts per 100 parts of a polyvinyl chloride resin, at least one lubricant in an amount of about 2 to about 12 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin, and at least one process aid in an amount of about 0.5 to about 8 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin;

transferring said composite directly to an extruder ~~such that a pelletizing step is eliminated~~; and

extruding said composite through a die to form a final shap siding panel.

29. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said at least one cellulosic filler is in an amount of about 40% to about 50% by weight of said composite.

30. (previously added) The method of claim 29 wherein said at least one cellulosic filler is in an amount of about 48% to about 50% by weight of said composite.

31. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said at least one cellulosic filler is wood flour.

32. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said at least one polyvinyl chloride material is in an amount of about 50% to about 60% by weight of said composite.

33. (previously added) The method of claim 32 wherein said at least one polyvinyl chloride material is in an amount of about 50% to about 52% by weight of said composite.

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34. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said polyvinyl chloride resin of said at least one polyvinyl chloride material has an inherent viscosity of about 0.6 to about 1.1.

35. (previously added) The method of claim 34 wherein said polyvinyl chloride resin of said at least one polyvinyl chloride material has an inherent viscosity of about 0.7 to about 0.9.

36. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said at least one stabilizer is in an amount of about 3 to about 5 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

37. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said at least one lubricant is in an amount of about 4 to about 8 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

38. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said at least one process aid is in an amount of about 1 to about 3 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

39. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein said at least one polyvinyl chloride material further consists essentially of at least one inorganic filler in an amount up to about 10 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.

40. (previously added) The method of claim 28 wherein:

said at least one cellulosic filler is in an amount of about 40% to about 50% by weight of said composite; and

said at least one polyvinyl chloride material is in an amount of about 50% to about 60% by weight of said composite, said at least one polyvinyl chloride material

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being comprised of said at least one stabilizer in an amount of about 3 to about 5 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin, said at least one lubricant in an amount of about 4 to about 8 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin, and said at least one process aid in an amount of about 1 to about 3 parts per 100 parts of said polyvinyl chloride resin.